



STATE OF IDAHO

OFFICE OF THE STATE TREASURER

JULIE A. ELLSWORTH · STATE TREASURER

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 21st, 2019

Contact: Lincoln Smyser

(208) 332-2996

Legislative Leaders Sue Idaho Constitutional Officer

Boise, Idaho — House Speaker Scott Bedke and Pro Tempore Brent Hill in their official capacity are suing Julie Ellsworth in her official capacity as the Treasurer of the State of Idaho. This action comes on the heels of multiple failed attempts during this year's Legislative Session to appropriate millions of taxpayer dollars for the construction of new legislative offices and more staff.

Treasurer Ellsworth stated "I have always opposed this move and I am shocked at the continued wasteful use of taxpayer dollars to build new legislative offices that will be used for just three months of the year. I plan to vigorously defend the taxpayers of Idaho and combat this frivolous use of their dollars."

The Idaho State Treasurer is a creation of the Idaho constitution and has been in the same location in the Capitol for over a hundred years. The office is a working office that serves state agencies and the public on a daily basis. The Treasurer and her office have acted in good faith and tried to offer up alternatives that would accommodate the Legislature and the public including a proposal utilizing shared space.

Background information:

<https://legislature.idaho.gov/sessioninfo/2019/legislation/H0289/>

Statement of Purpose for HB 289

This is an FY 2910 supplemental appropriation bill for the Department of Administration. Permanent Building Fund. It provides \$10,595,800 for Capitol renovations and the relocation of the State Treasurer's Office. This supplemental appropriation provides for a cash transfer in the amount of \$10,595,800 from the General Fund to the Permanent Building Fund.

This bill provides \$10,595,800 for three projects: \$3,525,000 to acquire remodel, or renovate reasonable space for the State Treasurer's Office and Staff; \$710,500 for the remodel of the north wing of the first floor of the Capitol; and \$6,360,300 for the remodel of the east wing of the first floor and garden level of the Capitol.

<https://legislature.idaho.gov/sessioninfo/2019/legislation/S1210/>

<https://legislature.idaho.gov/sessioninfo/2019/legislation/S1211/>

<https://legislature.idaho.gov/sessioninfo/2019/legislation/S1212/>

<https://www.ktvb.com/article/news/local/capitol-watch/idaho-lawmakers-want-10-million-for-statehouse-remodel/277-98ae472e-7d9e-4c73-8fbb-24ead9192b28>